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he closed the matter by assuring the M.L.A. that no offence had been meant to him. He had also reported that it was unfortunate that some inconvenience had been caused to the M.L.A.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government will make further enquiries in the matter.

Question No. 368.

Taxis

* 368 *Q.*—SRI K. MOOKIAH THEVAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many big, medium and baby taxis and auto-rickshaws are now running in Madras City up to 30th June 1963; and

(*b*) why no licences for the running of more auto-rickshaws have been given?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN :

(*a*)	(i) Big Taxis	37
	(ii) Medium Taxis	50
	(iii) Baby Taxis	1,470
	(iv) Auto-rickshaws	220

(*b*) The Regional Transport Authority, Madras has stopped issue of fresh permits for the running of auto-rickshaws in Madras City for the following reasons :—

(1) The three wheeler is not a safe type of passenger vehicle due to its capacity to take sharp turns;

(2) The auto-rickshaw produces much noise and emits large smoke when starting and while in motion and causes annoyance to the passengers and to the public; and

(3) The auto-rickshaw is not able to clear the automatic light points quickly and thus hampers free flow of traffic on main roads.

திரு. கரு. சீமைச்சாமி : இப்பொழுது 367-வது கேள்விக்கு அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லவில்லையே?

கனம் சபாநாயகர் : 368-வது கேள்விக்குப் பதில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார். 367-வது கேள்வியை ஒருவரும் போடவில்லையே.

SRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Unless the Speaker calls the number of the question, we may not know it.

MR. SPEAKER : I saw that the concerned hon. Member was not here. Anyhow. I will take up the question afterwards. Does the hon. Member. Sri K. Mookiah Thevar want to put any supplementary question?

SRI K. MOOKIAH THEVAR : Next question may also be taken up, Sir.